

**METHOD OF OPERATING AN IMAGE-BASED  
DOCUMENT PROCESSING SYSTEM AND AN APPARATUS THEREFOR**

**Abstract**

A check processing system comprises an image capture module including a controllable image capture device disposed along a first side of the document track. The image capture device captures an image of a document item moving from an upstream end of a document track to a downstream end of the document track. An energizeable first light source is disposed on a second side of the document track and faces the image capture device and is provided for, when energized, illuminating the document item to allow the image capture device to detect a leading edge of the document item as the document item moves from the upstream end to the downstream end. An energizeable second light source is disposed on a second side of the document track and is provided for, when energized, illuminating a document item in the document track to allow the image capture device to capture an image of the document item as the document item moves from the upstream end to the downstream end. A translucent reference surface is disposed between the first and second light sources and is provided for (i) passing through light from the first light source to illuminate a document item in the document track to allow the image capture device to detect a leading edge of the document item as the document item moves from the upstream end to the downstream end, and (ii) reflecting light from the second light source to the image capture device to allow the image capture device to be calibrated. A pocketing module includes at least one pocket for receiving a document item after the image capture device has captured an image of the document item.